(c) whether the proposed Centre is going to coordinate with China and Nepal which are more susceptible to ill effect of the receding Himalayan glaciers;

(d) whether any report by WWF has been submitted on Himalayan glaciers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee of scientists and experts under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been formed to device the format, structure and role of a National Research Centre on Glaciology. A meeting of this Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was held on 15.9.2006.

(c) Transnational issues would need bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not rise.

Research innovations in the country

2072. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of new innovations and research technology invented by our scientists could not reach at the grass root level, particularly rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for adopting people friendly approach for developing rural areas by carrying such research innovations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has been proactively engaged in developing,

adopting and disseminating people friendly technologies for rural areas with the involvement of NGOs, academic institutions, local bodies and community. Various Government departments and agencies such as Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, have taken many initiatives, including support for innovations. Women Technology Parks (WTP), Rural Technology Parks (RTP), Rural Technology Centres (RTC) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have been set up in rural areas for developing and disseminating location specific science and technology based solutions to local problems. Innovative projects involving development of field level technological interventions, which are capable of making a difference to rural life, are supported on regular basis by the Government. Some examples of such interventions are: (1) development of rural technologies like solar drier for fish, portable cookers using briquette made of biomass, modified multipurpose water mills, small biogas plants, etc. (2) during the last one year, the KVKs (in 540 rural districts) have conducted 1318 on-farm trials to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems, organized 33,942 frontline demonstrations to establish its production potential on farmers' fields, and 37,963 training programmes with participation of 8.4 lakh farmers and 84,925 extension personnel. The KVKs produced 5322.5 tonnes of seeds and 52.2 lakh planting material, besides 233.2 lakh livestock strain/ fingerlings for its availability to the farmers, and (3) 670 units of ultra-filtration membrane based water filters, based on the technology developed by a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratory, have been installed in different rural areas for providing virus-free clean drinking water.

Atrocities on SCs/STs

†2073. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not apply in the case of atrocity by the persons of upper caste against down trodden of Scheduled Castes in scheduled areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.